

# THE AYLESFORD UNION.

"That ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the Gospel."—PAUL.

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Rev. Thomas Trotter, D. D.,  
PRESIDENT OF ACADIA UNIVERSITY.

As Acadia University is just entering upon its first year's work under the direction of its newly appointed president, it would seem a fitting time to introduce Dr. Trotter to our readers. The portrait which appears on this page will familiarize his face to us, while to give an idea of the personality of the man who is deemed by Maritime Baptists worthy to stand in a position exalted by such godly, scholarly and energetic men as Crawley, Cramp and Sawyer, we cannot do better than quote from a sketch which appeared in the *McMaster University Monthly*, from the pen of Theodore H. Rand, D. C. L., Ex-Chancellor of McMaster, about the time of Dr. Trotter's acceptance of the Wolfville pastorate. Dr. Rand writes:

"Mr. Trotter is chiefly the product of our Canadian life and institutions. When but a lad, he, with his family, came from England to Toronto. Early deprived by death of his father, he found himself in that wonderful school of gracious discipline,—a member of a large family ardently devoted to a beloved mother begirt with manifold cares. A dutiful and affectionate son and brother, sharing bravely to the full the responsibilities which it was the increasing joy of his heart to discharge, Mr. Trotter, doubtless ere he was aware of it, developed a firm, manly, frank, self-reliant and sympathetic life. Subsequent training and experience enriched these qualities, and gave to them that balance and wise control which are so conspicuous in his personality. His school life at Woodstock allied him with Christian forces and interests to which he readily responded. To one of his quick responsiveness of spirit, it could not be that the earnestness of Christian purpose and loftiness of Christian aims embodied in Dr. Fyfe and Professor Wells, and in many worthy young lives engaged in study with him, should fail to quicken into generous impulse and life latent energies of heart and mind, and turn them into channels of

noble service. A course in Arts at Toronto University was a natural result by way of will and process in further self-equipment. The personality of a teacher like Dr. Young stimulated him to patient and painstaking scholarship, and widened the horizon of thought. Then came his theological course at McMaster, from which he was graduated in 1885. The uniform testimony of his teachers is that Mr. Trotter was an earnest man and an able student, capable of entering with purposeful effort and zest into whatever subjects were before him, and of shaping results to the ends of practical service.



During his protracted course of preparation, he was earnestly engaged during vacations in preaching on Home Mission fields. While a student at Toronto University, he preached one summer as far east as Shelburne County, Nova Scotia; and in August of that year made the long journey to Wolfville to hear Dr. Lorrimer (then, as now, of Tremont Temple, Boston), and to be present at the Annual Convention held there. It was then I first met him.

On graduation from McMaster, Mr. Trotter became the pastor of Woodstock church, one of the mother churches of

this province. When I was pressed into the duties of the Principalship of Woodstock College, I found myself in close official and personal relations with him. He was the efficient Secretary to the Board of Trustees. The interests of the college were dear to him, and teachers and students could always reckon upon his helpful sympathy. No pastor of Woodstock church was ever more beloved, or loved his people more. It was never my privilege to sit under a pastor whose ministrations I more highly prized. I was much impressed with the unfailing exegetical instinct which enabled him to discover the truth of the Divine Word; while his warm spirit and fine imagination ministered that truth convincingly to the hearts of his hearers. Prayer, song, the reading of the Scriptures, are meaningful and vital to him. In his relations to men the progress of moral and social reforms are of concern, but he regards them chiefly as the kindly fruitage of the publication of the Gospel, essential alike to the time-life and the life eternal. He is ever ready to bear his part in all forms of co-operative service to these high ends."

After speaking of the ready and hearty way in which Mr. Trotter co-operated with the movement which culminated in the realization of McMaster University as a Christian school of learning, Dr. Rand adds:—

"Loss of health compelled Mr. Trotter to seek rest for nearly two years. On resuming active duties he entered upon the pastorates of the Bloor Street Baptist Church, Toronto, in 1889.

In the organization of the University, however, there was a general consensus of opinion that his services should be secured for the chair of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology. The carrying out of this decision was a severe strain on Bloor Street Church, into whose affections his life had entered with exceptional fervor and strength. In need not speak of his careful and laborious discharge of the duties of his professoriate. Students and Professors felt the fine enthusiasm which clothed him as with a garment. A good scholar, a good teacher, a good preacher, a good man! He is all these. He has had